

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

• (2200)

**Mr. Peters:** Mr. Chairman, I rise on a point of order. There have been at least four or five occasions to date when private members have asked for the unanimous consent of the House to consider certain matters and that consent was refused. I now refuse this request for an extension of time.

**The Assistant Deputy Chairman:** There is not unanimity to continue.

Progress reported.

### PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

#### NATIONAL DEFENCE—SUGGESTED REDEPLOYMENT OF ARMED FORCES ELEMENTS TO NEWFOUNDLAND TO CONSOLIDATE STRATEGY AND PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe):** Mr. Speaker, we will consider some satisfactory resolutions now. While everybody is leaving the House, I should like to inform you that on February 8 I asked the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Richardson) if in his intentions to promote federal industrial development in his western region he would also consider the development of the eastern part of Canada, particularly the province of Newfoundland. I wanted to know whether he intended to promote some economic development through the Department of National Defence by deploying elements of the Canadian forces to that part of our nation, not only by way of economic impact but to complete, as it were, the consideration of a Canadian forces' presence in all of Canada.

While I realize it is doubtful whether the island would be in a more advantageous position, strategically, than it is with the present deployment of our forces involved in our committed tasks, there are several areas where the expenditure of our unfrozen defence dollars would or could be utilized to the economic advantage of that province and the nation as a whole.

The first obvious justification of our Canadian forces mission is our intended thrust toward northern development. For some strange reason or other, in our visions of the north and its development we keep talking about only one segment of Canada. The supposed experts, whoever they may be, seem to forget that there is a portion of our nation called northern Newfoundland and Labrador, which I hope is still part of Canada, which needs development just as seriously. What better way could we utilize the resources of our Canadian forces than by building roads, bridges and providing vital communications to this

### Adjournment Debate

part of our nation, and providing normal heretofore denied communications links such as telephone and television? The situation as it now exists should be an embarrassment at this time to everybody responsible.

I wish I had more than seven minutes to tell-off those people who are disturbing everybody. Can you imagine that after five years of frustration during my presence here, before my presence here and certainly since confederation, the CBC and CNT have not been able to come up with the fundamental capability of providing television and telephone facilities for those Canadians living in northern Newfoundland? I suggest this can only be considered preposterous.

Secondly, what an opportunity the engineering capability of our Canadian forces would have in directing the provision of a connecting road between Quebec and Labrador, a continuation of this link between the two land masses by a tunnel or causeway, and a further continuation of a decent paved highway along the great northern peninsula of Newfoundland.

So I say to the minister or his parliamentary secretary, whoever is here, let us use some meaningful common sense, ingenuity and imagination and develop all of Canada so that we will see some realization of the pledges of the government of equal opportunity for all Canadians regardless of where they live.

Our Minister of the Environment and Fisheries spoke just a few days ago of the threat of the extinction of our fisheries. Is it not, then, fundamental logic that the Canadian forces could provide the surveillance capability in Newfoundland to prevent the depletion of our marine resources by foreign draggers who are literally raping our Atlantic fisheries?

To turn for a moment to the utilization of our Canadian forces from a military context and in support of our NATO mission, Newfoundland was found suitable for training exercises of our fighting troops because of the similarity of our climate and terrain to that of our task in our NATO commitment. I ask the simple fundamental question: Is there any reason elements of our Canadian forces could not be stationed in Newfoundland as a nucleus of a training cadre to provide logistic and training support on a continuing basis for present and future commitments, as well as provide administrative support to the reserve forces?

I find the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Speaker, is one who rightfully shows more than a token responsibility to his part of the country, even though he is committed to direct his attentions more on a national basis. For this reason I can only give him full marks. He has made his presence felt here by being successful in having provided a mint to his native Winnipeg. While I would like to have a mint in my province, Mr. Speaker, this might come, depending on the fortunes of our political future; but I only ask the minister, to use a military drill term, to make an about turn from the central part of our government and look to eastern Canada and provide a justifiable share of the expenditure through his department to those Canadians that seem to be continuously left out in sharing the wealth of our nation. I ask for a proper answer.